

EDITORIAL

Dear Quaternarists,

The world is currently 1°C warmer than pre-industrial levels and the world's leading climate scientists warn that we have a dozen years in which global warming can be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C. This statement, in the recently released 5th IPCC report sends a stark reminder to the global community that that climate change is a reality; and that any increase greater than 1.5°C will only worsen the impact on global communities (IPCC, 2018).

The relevance of studying past climate to help inform our planning for a future warming world has never been clearer. In this issue of Quaternary Australasia, we hear from Kat Fitzsimmons on her recent expedition to sample the >100 m thick package of alternating loess-paleosols at Karamaidan, nestled in the foothills of the Pamir mountains in southern Tajikistan. Kat notes: "The -impact of an increasingly unpredictable future climate on our landscapes – the land on which we grow our food, our water supplies, our ecosystems – is even less well understood than our models for future climate themselves and we know that conditions in marginal regions, such as the edges of deserts, will become increasingly unstable and unable to support human populations (IPCC, 2018)."

We also hear from David Lowe on the IFG INTAV workshop, in deepest Transylvania, in the southern Carpathian Mountains. Martin Williams reports on two workshops with an arid theme: 5th Southern deserts in Karratha and the Nile workshop in Paris. Daniel Ellerton reports from Stradbroke Island, from the last SHeMax workshop. This IFG will have a session at INQUA next year, as will SHAPE, another IFG initiative. This proactive research from the Australasian Quaternary community will have global visibility at INQUA in 2019.

While we read about the recent research initiatives in these areas, we also reflect in this issue on the recent passing of two eminent Quaternary scientists: John Chappell and Pat Quilty. Both these scientists made significant impacts in the Quaternary field, and left notable legacies. Further opportunities to remember and reflect on this science and legacy are planned for Canberra in December.

Many of you will be reading this at the biennial AQUA conference in Canberra. We thank the organising team (and in particular, Scott Mooney, our Past President) for the hard work in drawing together a thought provoking and stimulating programme. A pre-conference field trip to the high altitude environments of eastern Australia, centred around Kosciuszko National Park will set the scene for Quaternary debate back in the ACT.

We look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

Yours Quaternarily,

Carol Smith and Sanja van Huet

Co Editors

REFERENCE

IPCC (2018). Special report on global warming of 1.5°C. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Geneva.

